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(*f*) Gangs are only taken out, under supervision, and the taking of them is only resorted to on the few occasions when work is not available for every one near the settlement. The Government are not aware that this causes any trouble to the ryots.

Muhammadans in the Police Department, Guntūr.

370 *Q.*—Khan Sahib Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the number of appointments given to Muhammadans in the district of Guntūr carrying a salary of Rs. 60 and upwards in the Police Department in the years 1921 and 1922 as compared with non-Muhammadans, including Brahmans, non-Brahmans and Christians ?

A.—The hon. Member will be referred to Appendix F of the Police Administration Report of 1920 in which the last quinquennial return of castes in the Police Department was issued. Information regarding succeeding years will be contained in the returns published under G.O. No. 658, Public, dated the 15th August 1922.

Grant of disafforested lands to depressed classes.

371 *Q.*—Khan Sahib Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB : Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased—

(i) to lay on the table a statement showing the extent of disafforested reserve lands granted to the depressed classes in the Guntūr district in 1922 ; and

(ii) to state (*a*) what sort of persons come under the depressed classes ; and (*b*) what is the principle laid in allotting these lands ?

A.—(i) The following statement gives the information :—

Name of the taluk.	Name of the reserve.	Extent assigned.
		ACS.
Tenali	Kolkalur reserve . .	73·38
Guntūr . .	Kuragallu reserve . .	302·76
Vinukonda . .	Guttikonda extension Nos. 7 and 9.	20·00
Palnad	Janapad reserve . .	87·00
Do.	Mandadi reserve (block 1).	24·00
Do.	Mutukur extension No. 4.	3·00
Do.	Goli extension I . .	30·00
	Total . .	540·14

N.B.—Besides the above extent of 540 acres 14 cents formally assigned to the depressed classes in this year up to now, several large areas recently disafforested especially in Palnad and Vinukonda taluks have been permitted to be occupied by them on sivayijama at five acres each and formal assignments will be made after subdivision of the areas for which a special staff of some revenue inspectors and peons has just been sanctioned. An extent of 300 acres in Lam reserve of Guntūr taluk has also been proposed for grant to the Anglo-Evangelical Lutheran Mission for an industrial school and a settlement for the depressed classes, and pending orders 200 acres of this are under temporary cultivation by depressed classes.

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(ii) (*a*) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the Press communiqué in G.O. No. 559, Revenue, dated 8th March 1920.

(*b*) If the hon. Member wishes to know the conditions on which the disafforested lands were granted, he is referred to the conditions laid down in paragraph 38 of Board's Standing Order No. 15 as last amended by G.O. No. 2815, Revenue, dated 16th December 1921.

Concession to clerks on New Moon days.

372 *Q.*—Khan Sahib Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that in Collectors' offices clerks of the Hindu community are allowed to attend the office an hour late on New Moon days; and

(*b*) if so, whether clerks in other departments of Government are allowed the same concession?

A.—(*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) The Government have not thought it necessary to refer the question to all the offices in the Presidency, but they are not aware of any cases in which complaint has been made of the concession not being allowed.

Light railways in Ganjām, etc.

373 *Q.*—Khan Sahib Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government intend introducing light railways in the districts of Ganjām, Vizagapatam, Gōdāvari, Kistna, Guntūr and Nellore; and

(*b*) what are the surveyed lines that will be taken in those districts for opening light railways?

A.—(*a*) The question of introducing light railways in any district is one for the decision of the district board concerned in the first instance. The Government have recently appointed a committee to consider the possibility of developing light railways in this Presidency.

(*b*) A list of railway projects surveyed in the districts referred to except Nellore was furnished in reply to question No. 644 put at the Legislative Council meeting dated 12th October 1921. The lines surveyed in Nellore are the following:—

(1) Ollapaliam-Singarayakonda-Kanigiri Railway.
(2) Kavali-Udayagiri line.
(3) Padugupad-Atmakur line (Traffic Survey).

Acquisition of lands for Adi-Dravidas, etc.

374 *Q.*—Khan Sahib Munshi MUHAMMAD ABDUR RAHMAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government and the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(i) the actual districtwar cost incurred for the acquisition of lands for house-sites in 1922

(*a*) for Panchamas;